

REMARKS

Claims 1-53 and 55-177 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-46, 50, 51 and 55-177 were withdrawn from consideration in response to the April 2, 2003 restriction/election requirement. Claim 54 has been cancelled. Claims 47 and 52 have been amended.

Claims 47, 48, 49, 52 and 53 are now under consideration.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claim 54 contains allowable subject matter.

Claims 47-49 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 5,792,090 (Ladin) and Claims 47-49, 52 and 53 were rejected as being unpatentable over US Patent 5,653,682 (Sibalis). In view of the accompanying claim amendments and the following discussion, each of these rejections is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

The limitations of Claim 54, which was indicated as being allowable over the art of record, have been incorporated into independent Claim 52 (and Claim 54 has therefore been canceled). Accordingly, Claims 52 and 53 are believed to be clearly in condition for allowance.

Similar language has been incorporated into amended independent Claim 47. Specifically, Claim 47 is directed to a release liner having a release layer *having an opening therein*, and one from the group of a moisture permeable membrane and a moisture absorbent membrane, the *membrane covering the opening*. Ladin and Sibalis each fail to teach or suggest the release liner defined in amended Claim 47.

Since the Applicant has fully responded to the Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that in regard to the above remarks that the pending application is patentable over the art of

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record and prompt review and issuance is accordingly requested. Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application at large, request is made that the Examiner telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney at (908) 518-7700 in order that any outstanding issues be resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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